



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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COUNCILS COMMITTEE

Andrew Jackson 9th Floor Training Room
Thursday, December 11, 2014
2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Commission Members Present

Jill Grayson Stott, Chair
Kelly Drummond
Ashley Dunkin
Gary Houston
Petrina Jones-Jesz
Steven Neely
Wendy Shea

Commission Members Absent

Joshua Grubb
Amy Lawrence
Tawny Spinelli

Staff Members Present

Richard Kennedy
Dana Cobb
Susan Cope
Rodger Jowers
Rosalyn Leavell-Rice
Shaun Noblit
John Rust
Gwendolyn Wright

Staff Members Absent

Lindsey Cody
Diane Wise

I. Welcome and Introductions - Jill Grayson Stott, Chair

Chair Stott called the meeting to order at 2:46 p.m. Stott welcomed all members and staff and asked each person to introduce herself/himself.

II. Approval of Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (SHEA) AND SECONDED (DRUMMOND) TO ACCEPT THE AUGUST COUNCILS COMMITTEE MINUTES. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

III. “The Raising of America” – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy shared a handout and provided an update on TCCY’s involvement with “The Raising of America.” This is work being done by the producers of UNNATURAL

CAUSES: Is Inequality Making Us Sick? It is an ambitious documentary series and Public Engagement Campaign that seeks to reframe the way we look at early child health and development. It illustrates how a strong start for all our children leads not only to better individual life-course outcomes (learning, earning and physical and mental health) but also to a healthier, safer, better educated, more prosperous and equitable nation. He stated that for those who were in attendance at Children's Advocacy Days 2014, they are familiar with the work as the first episode titled "Are we Crazy About our Kids?" was shown as part of the event.

Kennedy reminded committee members that Loraine Lucinski with the Department of Health had convened a group of partners to work together to take advantage of this series and campaign as a means to raise awareness across the state. Both Kennedy and Jowers have been involved. TCCY agreed to take the lead on this statewide effort, to explore ways to present this information across the state and develop a timeline based upon completion of the project.

The production efforts have slowed with the company and we still do not have a definitive timeline for release. However, we will continue working with the company and share updates with the committee as they become available. We are still committed to sharing this information throughout the state as quickly as there is a finished product to share.

IV. Children's Advocacy Days 2015 – Richard Kennedy

Kennedy reported Children's Advocacy Days (CAD) 2015 will be March 10-11 at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. The theme for this year's event is Children's Advocacy Days 2015: Everyday Superheroes...Every Day! Staff has reviewed evaluation comments from previous years and planning is well underway.

Rodger Jowers worked with faculty and a student at Nossi College of Art to design the logo and graphics for the event. The logo was shared with committee members with an explanation of each character. The characters are:

Captain Collabra – She is the team leader. Collabra is always at the front. Her ability is bringing people together and helping them find common purpose. Her personal motto is "Connect, Engage and Pioneer."

The Loudspeaker – He lurks the crowded and complex hallways of legislation and policy to represent children's interests. His ability is speaking to power. His personal motto is "From Many Voices, One Strong Voice."

InfoMan – He is ever alert, connected and finds the facts about child needs and what benefits them. His ability is getting the essential information and then spreading it far and wide. His personal motto is "Learn, Know and DO!"

Lynx - She links people together to join in support of advocacy. Her ability is building people and social networks. Her personal motto is “Forward Together!”

The registration site is complete and open. The link to the registration site is www.cad2015.eventbrite.com. There are currently approximately 200 people registered.

Sponsorship forms and solicitation letters are being prepared and will be distributed in early January. Speakers are being identified and plans are well underway.

Kennedy stated suggestions and ideas for improvement are always welcomed. If any commission member has thoughts, please feel free and encouraged to share with Kennedy and/or any other TCCY staff member.

V. Review of Regional Coordinators’ Activities

Rosalyn Leavell-Rice, Southeast; John Rust, Upper Cumberland; Gwen Wright, Memphis/Shelby County; Rodger Jowers, Southwest; Dana Cobb, Northwest; Susan Cope, Mid-Cumberland; and Shaun Noblit, South Central, presented information regarding their individual councils and coordinator activities. Diane Wise, Northeast and Lindsey Cody, East Tennessee were not present, so their reports were presented by Chair Stott and Richard Kennedy. Each of the reports included council activities that have occurred since the last meeting of the commission, as well as information about special projects and upcoming council meetings and events. Detailed information regarding activities in each region was included in materials distributed.

VI. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes approved by:

Richard Kennedy, Associate Director

Jill Grayson Stott, Committee Chair